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## P R E F A C E.

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THE present volume of 'THE ZOOLOGIST' forms the sixty-sixth since its foundation in 1843. This denotes a remarkable longevity, and its pages still exhibit no sign of senility; much healthy competition has taken place during these long years—journals on similar lines have appeared and disappeared, but for sixty-six years 'THE ZOOLOGIST' has never failed in the regularity of its monthly publication. By the death of John William Douglas in 1905 the last of the contributors to its first volume passed away, but in the long series of volumes scarcely the name of an English zoologist is missing among its contributors. Unfortunately no obituary notice has appeared of very many who have written in its pages; were it otherwise, we should possess a very valuable material in the biographical roll-call of British naturalists. This melancholy information is frequently unknown to the Editor till long after the event, and he would earnestly ask the contributors to apprise him of such occurrences and to supply, if possible, the necessary facts. It affords material of considerable literary value, and on many grounds is to be greatly desiderated.

The most cursory perusal of these, or any of these, sixty-six volumes gives no uncertain indication of the prevalent studies of British naturalists. Ornithology undoubtedly holds the first place, and the love of birds is only equalled by that of insects, though the former naturally is, and always will be, the prominent feature of 'THE ZOOLOGIST,' entomology having so

many of its own special publications. Mammals and Fishes in the order named come next in popularity; after these Reptiles and Crustacea; the other Orders are treated in a more sporadic manner. If this is the evidence of 'THE ZOOLOGIST' to the present date we may well speculate on the conclusions that may be drawn when another sixty-six volumes are completed. The trend in zoological study over a given period is an important factor in the estimation of biological speculation, and the breath of philosophical theories as regards animal life during different generations or individual life epochs. We must often considerably value a theory or conclusion by the personal equation, by the knowledge and personal and mental attitude of its promoter, as well as by the zoological standpoint of his day. 'THE ZOOLOGIST' reflects the latter over a considerable number of years.



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